The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 156 Engrossed | 2026 Regular Session | Kleinpeter

Present law provides that whoever commits the crime of negligent homicide will be sentenced as follows:

(1) When the victim was 10 years of age or older, the offender may be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for 10 years, or both.

(2) When the victim was less than 10 years of age, the offender will be imprisoned at hard labor, without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence, for not less than two years nor more than 10 years.

Proposed law increases the maximum period of imprisonment from 10 years to 15 years regardless of the victim's age and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law provides that an offender will be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than two years nor more than 20 years if:

(1) The victim was less than 13 years of age.

(2) The death was the result of criminally negligent mistreatment, abuse, or neglect.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends 14:32(C)(1) and (2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Delete proposed law provision relative to the offender's age.

2. Reduce the minimum age of the victim for the proposed law enhanced penalty from 17 to 13.

3. Delete the element of intentional mistreatment, abuse, or neglect from proposed law.

4. Reduce the proposed law maximum period of incarceration from 40 years to 20

years.